

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
9:00 a.m., January 23, 2003
North Coast Regional Water Board
5550 Skylane Blvd
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

ITEM: 13

SUBJECT: Update on Progress in Negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding Between State and Regional Water Board and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

DISCUSSION

At the December 5, 2002, Regional Water Board meeting in Fortuna, staff presented an update on the discussions between the State and Regional Water Board's staff and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) staff on the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our agencies. At that time, we were unable to provide a public review draft of the MOU because the document was still under review by CDF. The draft MOU has since been released by the State Water Board to the public. A copy of the December 4, 2002 draft MOU as well as the December 5, 2002 Executive Officer Summary Report are attached for your review and comment. The December 5, 2002 Executive Officer Summary Report provides a great deal of background information leading to the development of the MOU and our discussion.

The draft MOU addresses and clarifies our mutual understanding on several issues of concern between our agencies. These issues include:

- Intermediate conflict resolution
- Application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to the timber harvest document review process
- Use of Water Quality Standards and Basin Plans in review of THPs
- Cumulative impact analysis and protection of water quality in impaired water bodies
- Monitoring of water quality and conditions that may effect water quality
- Coordination of the waiver of waste discharge requirements with approval of THPs in compliance with the Basin Plans
- Staff coordination and training

The draft MOU envisions the Executive Officers of the Regional Water Boards that deal with the review of timber harvesting projects would be signatory to the MOU. Before signing the MOU, the Executive Officer requests the Regional Water Board to critically review the draft MOU and provide your comments, insights and recommendations. If additional revisions substantially modify this draft, staff would return this matter to the Regional Water Board for additional comment.

PRELIMINARY STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:

Regional Water Board action is not required for this item.

(Item 13 MOUfr.doc)